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Attorney Docket: 381NT/49487
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: KENJI HORII ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/735,548 Group Art Unit: 1725

Filed: DECEMBER 14, 2000 Examiner: Len TRAN

Title: METHOD OF BONDING METAL PLATES, APPARATUS
THEREFOR AND HOT STRIP MILL

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

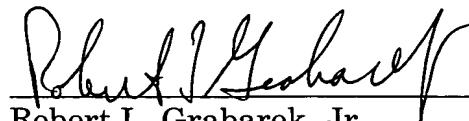
In response to the Restriction Requirement issued in the above-referenced patent application on June 18, 2002, for which a response is due on July 18, 2002, Applicants elect the invention of Group I for further prosecution in the application. Further, Applicants elect the species of Claims 1-2, which are drawn to a method of bonding in an oblique direction, for further prosecution in the application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request substantive examination of Claims 1 and 2 in the present application.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are required in connection with

this application. However, if any fees are required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381NT/49487).

Respectfully submitted,

July 18, 2002



Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.
Registration No. 40,625

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844